
**Axbridge Rural District
Council.**



Annual Reports



OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

==Sanitary Inspector==

For 1913.



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AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For 1913.



*To the Chairman and Members of the Axbridge
Rural District Council.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The geographical features of the district are limestone chiefly, sandstone in a few localities, peat in the lower marshes, and clay. The water in the lowlands near the sea being brackish where shallow wells are dug, as in the North Marsh.

The occupation is agricultural, dairy farming being the chief business. Much cheese is made and milk sent to towns, both by individual farmers and from depots, or those farmers who contract and collect milk from small dairies.

The area is 85,931 acres.

Population:—

24,965	...	Census 1891
23,744	...	Census 1910
23,068	...	Census 1911

The decrease being noticeable.

Inhabited houses, 5,934; Persons per house, 4.

The outdoor relief charge amounted to £4,018 during the year ending 30th September, 1912, and £130 was paid for persons obtaining relief in other Unions.

The indoor Workhouse maintenance charge was £2,461, including drugs, medicines, etc.

Water Supply.

That of the South Marsh derived from the powerful springs at Cross, and pumped by steam to a reservoir on the hill adjacent, is excellent in quality and quantity. This supplies Weare, Bid-disham, Badgeworth, Mark, Lympsham, Burn-ham (Without), and Brent in an efficient manner. The supply from Mendip that feeds Cheddar, Axbridge, and Highbridge is also excellent and copious, and was but little affected by the dry summer, and supplied the South Marsh area, while the new pumps were being fixed at the Pumping Station.

The Winscombe supply is insufficient at periods to supply its district, and Shipham has again been short of water at times. A good new well has been sunk to add to the supply, but the district served is an increasing one, and largely residen-tial, using much water for baths, etc. New houses are being built, and the necessity for an adequate supply for future requirements is becom-ing very evident. An effort should be made if possible to acquire more water-bearing land as soon as possible. It is calculated that, if well regulated, much waste can be prevented, but a larger supply is indicated.

A supply of good water for the North Marsh is urgently wanted. Being a flat low-lying district, where only surface and brackish water can be obtained locally, much difficulty has arisen in obtaining a supply, and the expense great; but I

understand final arrangements are now being discussed to provide the supply needed, and no further delay in forwarding a scheme for the supply should be permitted; it is tempting a calamity.

This will supply Banwell, Congresbury, Wrington, Puxton, and Wick St. Lawrence. Other parts of the district are supplied by wells, pits, rain water, public wells, or rhyne water.

Loxton and Christon have lately been given a good water supply by two large land owners, Mr. Wainwright and Mr. Wheeler; the farms and cottages being supplied and two stand pipes erected at Loxton. Analyses of water are usually Bacteriological ones, eight of such were taken—five were bad, three were good.

Wells are the chief source of water supply for domestic use, and though there has been little serious disease in the district throughout the year 1912, many of them should be better protected from surface pollution with a collar six to twelve inches high above ground of well-built masonry and cement, the ground earth dug away for five feet deep at least around every well, and the space filled in with an impervious layer of cement or concrete. By so doing, any surface pollution would have to filter through at least five feet of soil before gaining access to the well.

Sewers
and
Drainage.

Wrington has a drainage system and filtration beds. The efforts of the Engineer seem to have overcome the trouble with the sewers which are now periodically inspected.

Efficient sewers exist in Cheddar, Axbridge and Uphill. A new length of sewer has been laid in Cheddar in place of an open one in front of some houses near Venn's Gate; for the most part privies

and cesspits are in general use that often overflow into a ditch adjacent. No privy or cesspit should empty direct into a ditch; the overflow should filter through at least three yards of soil, gravel, clinkers, or broken stone, as eventually the water is drank by cattle, and even used for domestic purposes.

The water supplies have little or no plumbo or solvent action, and cases of lead poisoning are not frequent now that more care is taken with the taps and storage and manufacture of cider, brass and pewter being abandoned.

A Local Government Board enquiry was held to consider the question of Burnham taking over part of Berrow, whereby the latter would be partly drained by junction with the Burnham sewer. Difficulties having arisen, no decision was arrived at.

Arrangements have been made to supply Worle with water from the Weston supply. Part of the pipes are laid, but, few connections are made with the houses requiring it.

The water is urgently needed in the higher portion of the village.

The streams and rhynes are the main drainage of the district, which eventually find their way into the River Axe, discharging at Uphill into the sea. Privies with cesspits are universal, though effort is being made to supplant them with earth closets. In some places with a water supply, water-flushed W.C.'s are in use.

Scavenging.

House refuse is removed by the individual householder, and the cesspits emptied periodically in like manner.

Milk Supply

Dairy work is the chief industry of the district. The procedures are usually carried out with increasing care. All the churns are scalded out with boiling water, often with steam, and the milk is excellent in quality, as I often personally test it by drinking it in my numerous inspections and visits. The milk that is sent away to towns is all carefully strained and cooled by special water-cooled apparatus—the dirt that is complained of by the consumers too often gets in in transit and at the retailers.

The cows and cowsheds are kept fairly clean, though hardly up to the continental or model standard, and “the cow is a dirty animal.” Grooming the cows and sheds means labour—the grave present-day difficulty in most callings of agriculture—still the question of cleanliness cannot too strongly or too often be impressed on those who attend to cowsheds and dairies, and upon milkers especially. The health of the animals in the locality is usually good; being a very mild area they are out most of the winter months, and tuberculosis is apparently not so common as in some districts.

In case of infectious disease in a dairy farm the milk is all sent off from the field of milking, and is not allowed to enter the premises; dairy work is temporarily stopped, and the milk sold forthwith. By these stringent measures disease is very materially stopped from spreading, and our thanks are due to the farmers who always acquiesce in this procedure without hesitation, notwithstanding the loss and inconvenience it causes.

The pig industry is satisfactorily carried out in a cleanly, efficient manner; very few complaints

having arisen, which are speedily arranged. Very few cases of anthrax have occurred, and owing to the stringent precautions no foot and mouth disease occurred.

There are 495 persons entered on the register; also six milk depots on the register. 5483 inspections have been made during the year. The register is complete, though it is constantly changing, as the farmers cease to sell milk at various periods, according to demand, supply, and personal convenience, and time's price, and where farms change hands.

Advice is constantly given and suggestions made, and the conditions are improving both as regards method, buildings, and sanitation, though there is much room for improvement and progress.

The sanitary inspections have been numerous, viz:—1,302; many household defects were remedied, e.g., sinks, W.C's, rubbish heaps, ventilation defects, dirty rooms, bedding, furniture, and bad floors. Lodging houses are periodically inspected, but no cellar dwellings or offensive trades exist in the district.

Food.

We have had little or no trouble with bad meat or unsound food. No outbreaks or serious illness from food poisoning have occurred.

Slaughter Houses.

Slaughter houses are 32 in number, of which 16 are licensed; and constant inspections (193) made. There are bye-laws for eight parishes only in this Union. All have good drainage and water supply.

Factories and Workshops.

Factories and Workshops report appended.

Bakehouses.

Bakehouses number 31. None are underground; all are well conducted.

Schools.

The sanitary condition of the schools is good, and the water supply and conveniences for washing in most cases adequate. All cases of absence from infectious disease are reported by the school-master or mistress to the Medical Officer of Health and the County Medical Officer, and the cases excluded from school.

Many cases of adenoid disease, bad teeth, defective eyesight and hearing have been attended to.

Housing.

Considerable progress has been made during the year with the very difficult task of carrying out the Housing Act of 1909. In Shipham, a Local Government Board enquiry was held to consider the question of erecting cottages on a site that had been generously laid at the disposal of Shipham by J. Grubb, Esq., J.P., for that purpose. In view, however, of the immediate erection of 10 cottages in the adjoining village of Winscombe, with facilities for adding 10 more if required, it was decided to postpone building in Shipham, and on a different site to that proposed.

It is also questionable if houses in the marshes and turf moors are fit for habitation that are dry and comfortable in the summer, but are periodically flooded in the winter and in times of heavy rainfall. There is no doubt that new cottages are required for the working classes, and that they will be greatly appreciated, little or any loss being incurred, as a small garden will be an additional source of income. Care will naturally be taken that such be for the working class only, and not for town people who like to have a little cottage in the country for week-end visits.

The want of new cottages should be carefully considered by every Parish Council, who naturally

know the requirements of their own area, and their demands and statements laid before the District Council to carry out the Act.

New cottages for the working classes are required in the country with at least three bedrooms, a living-room, kitchen, and scullery, built with a high step up from the ground level, and wooden floors in the rooms. Happily the New Building Bye-laws will prevent at last, more ill-built insanitary houses, without damp courses and shooting, being erected for the future.

The number of Houses inspected under the Housing Act, 1909, has been 258. Eleven closing orders were made, 4 of which were repaired, made fit for habitation. Five are still closed, 3 being void, 1 is under slow repair, and one under an ejectment order; two were demolished and 4 new ones built in their place.

Factory and
Workshops
Act.

There is a large steam laundry at Worle, and two small shirt and washing factories at Cheddar. All are well conducted and inspected.

All other industries are on a small scale, employing a few hands only.

No register is provided, but the bakehouses, butchers and sausage makers, dressmakers, basket and boot makers, tailors, saddlers, washing people, carpenters and coach builders, smiths, and brewers are constantly inspected on our daily rounds of inspection and visits.

Mostly very small businesses employing few hands, though strawberry picking is extensive in June. Dairy work is the chief industry. All the bakehouses have been inspected, and are generally satisfactory. There are no underground bakehouses in the district; all are cleaned and whitelined according to statute.

All workshops in the district have been periodically inspected; also the home workers. No cases of infectious disease has originated therefrom.

The outworkers are numerous, and vary in number from day to day according to supply, as so many do dressmaking and sewing and washing when the work is forthcoming.

There is a shirt factory at Cheddar, which sends out work—sewing and laundry work—from time to time—but it is irregular and on quite a small scale.

Three Local Government Board enquiries has been held during the year. One concerning the Shipham Housing question, one concerning the North Marsh Water Scheme, one concerning the Berrow and Burnham Annexation Scheme.

Sanitary
Administra-
tion.

The work is done by the Medical Officer of Health, the Sanitary Inspector, the Lady Health Visitors who have had much experience of tuberculosis and general sanitary work, all acting under the control of the County Medical Officer of Health.

All throat swabs of suspicious diphtheritic aspect, sputa from possible and probable tuberculosis cases and blood specimens, water analyses, chemical and bacteriological, are sent to the experts at the Public Health Laboratory at Weston-super-Mare, whose decisions have been most accurate and of the utmost value and assistance.

There is no hospital for infectious diseases—only two tents and a moveable wood hut.

Bye-laws are in force for eight parishes, slaughterhouses are thereby included. It would be well if such were adopted for the whole Union,

though satisfactory and well conducted and constantly inspected. Bye-laws for new buildings are also in force throughout the district.

Scarlatina.

Thirty-seven cases were reported; these were all of a sporadic and mild type—imported cases. No deaths were reported, and no spreading occurred in any locality but Wrington. In all cases any milk business was confined to sending off milk from the field of milking, and no dairy work was conducted on the premises. The houses were visited, precautions were enjoined, and pamphlets of advice given, and the schools notified. An outbreak of a mild type occurred at Wrington and the schools were closed.

On the termination of the disease the rooms were thoroughly disinfected, all linen washed and boiled, while the bedding, blankets, and pillows were placed in the super-heated steam disinfector.

Diphtheria.

There have been 26 cases notified during the year, no deaths, many of a mild, sporadic type, serious on account of this lightness of the symptoms, because it is difficult for the public to believe that such cases can be the causes of dangerous and fatal attacks in more susceptible subjects with whom they come in contact. Cultures of all suspected throats have been taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, to whom our best thanks are due for the rapidity and accuracy of their investigation, without which in obscure and mild cases a correct diagnosis could scarcely be arrived at.

Antitoxin has been distributed free of charge, *ad lib*, to all the Poor Law Medical Officers, which bounty has been much appreciated, and it has been used freely and promptly with much success.

Several carriers have been detected, isolated, and treated until rendered innocuous, and precautions carefully carried out.

At the termination of cases, disinfection is carried out, as in cases of scarlatina.

Measles and
Mumps,
Whooping
Cough.

The above diseases are not notifiable, but were reported as they arose to the County Medical Officer, and exclusion notes were issued to the schools.

Cheddar, Uphill, Kewstoke, and Worle schools were closed for Measles, and Congresbury, Churchill and Blackford for Whooping Cough.

Sore throats of a suspicious type being prevalent at Worle. I examined all the children, and took 40 swabs for bacteriological examination, which were all reported negative: 20 per cent. of the children, however, had enlarged tonsils, but no further developments occurred. The new water supply when completed, will improve matters, possibly.

Four cases of acute Poliomyelitis were notified; 3 were evidently of a mild type and the neuritis and weakness rapidly cleared up. One case was a woman of 25, one a lad of 8, of doubtful tubercular history, and one a man of 32; in none of these cases was there any actual paralysis, only excessive weakness of a limb, soon clearing up. The fourth case a boy of 5, lived in a low, damp district, and in poor circumstances. He had extensive paralysis and gradually died of exhaustion.

All the cases lived many miles apart and had no communication with each other. The preventive measures were those adopted in Diphtheria, regarding the discharges as a possible means of

spreading the malady. These were disinfected or burnt, particular care being enjoined as to the nasal and oral secretions, avoidance of kissing, mouth toys, pencils, etc., and orders given to boil all cups, spoons, and feeding utensils after use, and rag or paper handkerchiefs carefully burnt.

The case of Cerebro-spinal Fever lived 6 days, the symptoms were intense, with marked orthotonus and trismus, resembling Tetanus; unfortunately no pathological investigations were permitted, to demonstrate the existence of a diplococcus. The case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was removed to Weston Hospital.

Isolation
Hospital.

There is none, though a large district of over 23,000.

If the first cases should be immediately removed to an infectious hospital, much anxiety and loss of business would be saved, for in a district where dairy work is so universal an infectious case dislocates the whole business for many weeks, with serious loss.

Disinfection.

All articles for disinfection are sent to the steam disinfector at Worle Steam Laundry, who fetch and return the same by special conveyance from all infectious cases—scarlatina, diphtheria, and tuberculosis. In tuberculosis, the rooms occupied are disinfected with sulphur and Formalin fumigation, the floors and walls washed with Izal, the rooms papered or coloured, and ceilings whitewashed.

Notifications of tuberculosis are reported to the Health Department in Weston-super-Mare, and the place visited by the Health Visitors Inspector, or myself. Leaflets of advice are distributed and

disinfectants and sputum bottles provided, or other articles requisite for personal sanitation.

Acts. The Public Health Acts Amendment Act and the Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890, have been adopted in this district.

Births. From the Registrar's returns I find that during the year there were 462 Births: males 242, females 220. Eleven males and 7 females were illegitimate; giving a rate of 19·8 in the population of 23,068.

Deaths. The deaths during 1912 numbered 310; males 159, females 151, giving a rate of the population of 23,068 of 13·4: of these, 7 were strangers registered in the district, and 19 were residents not registered in the district.

Deaths under 1 year numbered	...	...	34
„ from 1 to 2 years numbered	...	...	10
„ „ 2 to 5 „ „	...	...	8
„ „ 5 to 15 „ „	...	...	3
„ „ 15 to 25 „ „	...	...	*8
„ „ 25 to 45 „ „	...	...	‡35
„ „ 45 to 65 „ „	...	...	52
„ „ 65 upwards „ „	...	...	160
*3 of phthisis.		‡18 of phthisis	

Deaths from Zymotic Disease ... 11.

Measles	...	...	...	5
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	4
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	1

Deaths from Phthisis	...	...	...	...	28
„ „ Tubercular Meningitis	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ Other Tuberculous Disease	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ Cancer	...	...	...	...	19

Notified Infectious Disease, 1883:—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	26
Erysipelas	...	...	...	22
Scarlatina	...	...	...	37
Cerebro-Spinal Fever			...	1
Opthalmia Neonatorum			...	1
Puerperal Fever		...	...	2
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis			...	71
Other forms of Tuberculosis			...	19

Numerous inspections have been made in the district, and all insanitary conditions and nuisances abated as soon as they were discovered or reported, while those localities in which diseases appeared received special attention, and its sanitation investigated and improved.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A. V. LECHE,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of whole District during 1913 and previous years.
AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Netts Births	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1908	23,126	492	492	20.5	322	13.4	..	..	40	81.3	322	13.4
1909	23,126	488	488	20.5	329	13.6	..	..	33	67.4	329	13.6
1910	23,126	466	466	19.	287	11.	..	..	30	34.3	287	11.0
1911	23,068	467	467	19.0	287	11.0	8	15	40	81.1	291	11.0
1912	23,068	446	441	19.3	318	13.8	14	17	29	61.9	321	13.8
1913	23,068	462	457	19.8	310	13.4	7	19	34	73.5	322	14.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ..	}	85,931	}	Total population at all ages ..	}	23,068
..	}	..	}	Number of inhabited houses ..	}	5,934
..	}	..	}	Average number of persons per house ..	}	4
						At Census of 1911.

TABLE II.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1913.
AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY (i.e., Parish or Ward) of the District.			
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Axbridge	Weston	Burnham	Blagdon
		Under 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 and upw'rds known.				
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) ..	26	1	7	8	4	6	..	8	7	6	5
Erysipelas ..	22	..	..	..	3	5	10	10	5	4	3
Scarlet fever ..	37	..	9	27	1	..	..	8	8	3	18
Puerperal fever ..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Polio-myelitis ..	4	..	1	1	1	1	..	3	1	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	71	..	1	17	19	19	12	..	..	..	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	182	1	22	59	32	39	22	71	44	29	39

Ophthalmia Neonatorum—Removed to Hospital, 1.
 Sanatoriums—St. Michael's, Cheddar; The Engel Home, Cheddar.

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1913.
 AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT AT THE SUBJOINED AGES.								DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS.
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65		65 and upwards.
Measles	5	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	4	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poliomyelitis	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	28	..	..	..	3	18	7	..	11
Tuberculous Meningitis	3	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	4	..	..	2	..	1	1	3	1
Cancer, malignant disease	19	..	..	..	..	1	1	3	4
Bronchitis	19	2	1	..	1	..	3	12	..
Broncho-Pneumonia.. .. .	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia (all forms)	9	2	2	..	..	2	3	..	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	2	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	25	..	..	..	..	3	11	11	9
Congenital Debility and Malforma- tion, including Premature Birth	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	5	..	..	..	2	2	2	1	..
Suicides .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heart Disease Organic	37	1	..	..	..	3	8	25	4
Other Defined Diseases	119	5	2	..	2	5	11	94	16
	310	34	10	8	3	35	52	160	46

SUB-ENTRIES : Cerebro-spinal Meningitis (under 25 years), 1—entered above under meningitis
 Poliomyelitis (under 5 years), 1

TABLE IV.
Infantile Mortality during the Year 1913. Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	1
Tubercular Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2
Menigitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Convulsions ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Laryngitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Bronchitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	1	..	1
Pneumonia, all forms ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	5
Diarrhoea ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1
Gastritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2
Atelectasis ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Congenital Malformations ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Premature birth ..	3	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	5
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus ..	4	1	..	..	..	5	..	1	..	11
Other causes ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	8	5	..	..	..	9	7	5	..	34

Nett Births in the year—legitimate, 444; illegitimate, 18.

Nett Deaths in the year—34.

February, 1914.

A. V. LECHE, Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1913, for the Rural District of Axbridge.

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Housework.

1—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors and Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspection	Written Notice	Persecutions
Factories	43	..	..
(Including Factory Laundries)			
Workshops	102	..	..
(Including Workshop Laundries)			
Workplaces	127	..	..
Homeworkers' Premises ..			
Total	272	..	..

2—DEFECTS FOUND IN ABOVE.

Want of Floor Drainage, 1; Remedied,

Want of Sanitary Accommodation, 1; Remedied.

Total, 2.

3—HOME WORK.

Wearing Apparel: Lists sent twice a year, 2; outworkers, 2.

Contractors, 2.

4—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

No Register is provided, but the Bakehouses, Butchers and Sausage Makers, Dressmakers, Basket and Bootmakers, Tailors, Saddlers, Working People, Carpenters and Coach Builders, Smiths, Brewers, are constantly inspected on our daily rounds of inspection and visits.

Mostly very small businesses, employing few hands, though strawberry picking is extensive in June.

Dairy work is the chief industry.

A. V. LECHE,

February, 1914.

Medical Officer of Health.

Phthisis: Sanatorium and Hospital Accommodation.

AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT.

	ST. MICHAEL'S HOME	ENGEL HOME, CHEDDAR
Classes for which accommodation is provided :		
(a) Early cases .. ..	..	..
(b) Intermediate cases ..	25	17
(c) Advanced cases.. ..	16	..
By whom provided	Endowed by the late Mrs. W. Gibbs	Payments and donations
Where situated	Cheddar	Cheddar
Total number of Beds ..	41	17
How are patients selected ? ..	By Application	By Application
Are the patients under the care of a resident Medical Officer ? ..	No	No
What charge, if any, is made for the use of Beds?	None	8/-, 15/-, 20/- per week
Do the Sanitary Authority use :		
(1) their Isolation Hospital, or		
(2) their Small-pox Hospital, for cases of Phthisis? ..	No, being none	No, being none
Do the Sanitary Authority reserve Beds in any Phthisis Sanatorium: If so, how many, and in what Sanatorium? ..	No	No
Do the Sanitary Authority provide portable Open-air Shelters or Tents?	No	No

Have the Council, or any Private Body, provided a Dispensary?

There is one at Weston-super-Mare.

A. V. LECHE,

February, 1914.

Medical Officer of Health.

HOUSING.

1. Sanitary District	Axbridge
2. New Houses erected during 1913	20
3. Number of Houses inspected during 1913, under the Housing Act, 1909. (This must NOT include re-inspections of houses previously inspected)	258
4. Results of inspections of the fresh houses inspected during 1913, classified as follows:	
(a) Number reported as unfit for human habitation	11
(b) Number defective, but with defects not sufficient to report as unfit for habitation..	63
(c) Number without recorded sanitary defects	184
Note—(a), (b) and (c) must, of course, add up to the figures given in (3).	
5. Action taken and results in regard to houses reported as unfit during 1912 and 1913, as follows:	For houses reported during
Number so reported	1912 1913
Closing Orders made	14 11
Made fit without a Closing Order ..	14 11
Still unfit, but no Closing Order made ..	none none
Demolished	none none
Put in repair after Closing Order.. ..	none 2
Still closed at end of 1913	12 4
	2 5
6. Action taken with regard to defective houses, but not sufficient to report as unfit, as follows:	For houses first examined during
Number so examined	1912 1913
Number with the defects remedied by the end of 1913	63 63
Number still defective at end of 1913 ..	37 44
Number not yet visited to ascertain if defects are remedied .. .. .	.. 13
	.. 6
7. Cases of overcrowding dealt with during the year	8
8. Parishes in which there is evidence of shortage of houses, and steps taken to remedy..	Most parishes require some new cottages to replace old, comfortless ones. Ten cottages are in course of completion at Winscombe, with preparations ready to erect 10 more, if necessary; this will, it is thought, obviate the necessity of building cottages at Shipham, the adjoining village, for the present, as the work lies chiefly in Winscombe.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year ending 1913.



*To the Chairman and Members of the Rural
District Council of Axbridge.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Report for the year 1913.

The area of the district is 89,730 acres, the population (census 1911) 23,068, and the number of inhabited houses 5,940.

Notices. During the year twenty-four notices were served under the Public Health Act, 1875, and numerous written and verbal requests made with respect to minor nuisances.

Letters. The letters written numbered 519.

New Houses occupied. Certificates under the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, were granted for 20 new Houses.

Overcrowding. Eight cases of overcrowding were dealt with, and in each case the number of inmates reduced, or the families removed into larger houses.

Infectious Disease. Notifications of all infectious cases were handed me by the Medical Officer of Health. Every case was visited, enquiries made, disinfectants supplied, and the rooms disinfected.

- Schools.** Five Schools where children suffering from infectious disease had attended were sprayed or fumigated, and the floors and furniture washed with disinfectants.
- Rooms.** Seventy-three rooms which had been occupied by persons suffering from infectious disease were either sprayed or fumigated, and articles of bedding that could not be properly treated at home removed and thoroughly disinfected.
- Bakehouses.** These number 31. They are frequently inspected. There are no underground bakehouses.
- Slaughter Houses.** There are 32 slaughter-houses in the district. All belong to private owners. They are well ventilated and drained, and frequently lime-washed. Skins and offal are regularly removed.
- Common Lodging Houses.** Two common lodging-houses are registered.
- Water.** Eight samples of water were taken and submitted to the County Health Department for examination.
- Sewers.** Lengths of sewers in several parishes have been taken out and re-laid, and many repairs carried out.
- Factories and Workshops.** These, not including bake-houses, comprise six milk depôts, two steam laundries, a blouse factory, two wood-cutting works, an iron foundry, a mineral water manufactory, three motor and cycle works, and several small laundries. All are in good repair and frequently lime-washed.
- Dairies and Cowsheds.** Four hundred and ninety-five milksellers are registered. The cowsheds are generally well ventilated and kept clean.
- Housing, etc. Act, 1909.** During the year, 258 houses were inspected. Of these, 184 were found to be in good repair or had

only slight defects, 63 defective but not sufficient to report as unfit, and 11 unfit for habitation.

Notices under Part I, Sec. 15 (3), were served with respect to 63 houses. Repairs were carried out at 44, are being carried out at 13, and at 6 nothing has yet been done.

Closing Orders were made with respect to 11 houses. Three are closed, two demolished, four repaired and made fit, one under repair, and one still occupied and nothing done.

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

Thanking you for the kind support and consideration you have extended to me during the year,

I beg to remain ladies and gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. M. TEEK.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Axbridge Rural District Council.